

P1 of 1

scenery dominated by high mountain peaks along both sides of the valley of the Greenbrier, Pocahontas County is the picturesque scene of several phases of West Virginia history.

History-minded tourists planning now for next Summer's vacation trip would find it interesting to spend part or all their vacation within sight of the Seneca Trail (U.S. 219) which follows roughly the route of the ancient warpath of the Senecas, Shawnees and other Indian tribes and later the blue and gray-coated combatants of the War of Secession.

In that region roamed Jacob Marlin, Stephen Sewell, Andrew Lewis, Robert E. Lee, W. W. Averell,

W. L. Jackson and other historic characters. Jacob Marlin, for whom

Marlinton is named, and Stephen Sewell, whose name is perpetuated in

THREE BATTLES of Greenbrier were fought around a predecessor of the bridge shown in the foreground near Bar-tow, Pocahontas County. The bridge is on U. S. Rt. 250, formerly known as the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. The picture was taken in front of the historic Travelers Rest, a famous stage coach tavern of a century ago, which is now operated as a tourist home.

Sewell Mt. In what is now Fayette County, spent the Winter of 1750 and 1751 together.

Marlin and Sewell, it is said, disagreed over religion and agreed to separate but live near each other on what became known as Marlins Run in Pocahontas County. There Andrew Lewis reported he found them living—Marlin in a cabin and Sewell in a hollow sycamore tree, big

enough to hold five or six persons.

Sewell later moved to a cave at the head of Sewells Run before pioneering 40 miles west to Sewells Creek, where he was killed by Indians.

By 1800 the population of the region had grown to about 153 persons from whom most of the present population are descended.

By 1821 the population of the mountain region had grown sufficiently to warrant the organization of two new counties: Pocahontas and the adjoining Allegheny, which was destined

to remain in Virginia.

According to a story which has been handed down, it was intended to name the new county at the head of the James River for Pocahontas and the other new county at the head of the Greenbrier River in the Mississippi watershed Allegheny, but through some error the names were switched in the measure passed by the General Assembly of Virginia.

According to historic road markers on the Seneca Trail at the Pocahontas-Greenbrier and Pocahontas - Randolph County lines, Pocahontas County was formed from Bath, Pendleton and Randolph Counties. It was named for the Indian princess, friend of the Jamestown settlers. The marker mentions the battle of Drop Mt. on Nov. 8, 1607, and also that in the county are the famous Cranberry Glades.

Centimeter Bridge near Bartow was the scene of three battles fought respectively on Oct. 2, 1861, Oct. 31, 1861 and Jan. 12, 1862. Taking part in these battles were Confederate troops from Virginia, Georgia, Arkansas and other states. One company of the 1st Virginia had been recruited in Greenbrier in 1861 in which the bridge is situated. The fighting which followed had been interrupted by John Bullard and what is now

Other battles in the county were fought at Huntersville, Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) and Duncans Lane, and smaller skirmishes elsewhere.

The first county seat was at Huntersville, where the first term of the county court was held in the home of John Bradshaw, founder of the town, on March 5, 1822.

Commissions as justices of the peace signed by Gov. Randolph of Virginia were presented by John Jordan, William Poage, James Tallman, Robert Gay, John Baxter, George Burner and Benjamin Tallman.

Each justice had to take four oaths; to perform his duties faithfully, to be faithful to the Commonwealth of Virginia, to support the national constitution and oppose dueling.

John Jordan qualified as high sheriff by giving bond for \$20,000 with Abram and Isaac McNeel as sureties. Josiah Beards gave bond for \$2,000 to serve as county clerk with Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallman sureties. Johnson Reynolds of Lewisburg qualified as commonwealth's attorney. Sampson L. Matthews was recommended to the governor for appointment as surveyor. William Hughes of Lyova District and James Cooper of Head of Grass River were appointed constables. Robert Gay was later appointed commissioner of the revenue.

Warriors' Route

Famous Names of Early History Linked to Picturesque Locale Where Struggling Armies Locked In Fertile Valley of Greenbrier

Pocahontas County..

4m-The Charleston Gazette Sunday, Jan. 17, 1954

The county court at the same term requested the governor to issue commission as officers in the 127th regiment of state militia to the following: John Baxter, colonel; Benjamin Tallman, lieutenant colonel; and William Blair, major. Recommended for captains were Hoous Tallman, William Arbogast, Henry Herold, Isaac Moore and Milburn Hughes; for lieutenants Andrew C. Matthews, Robert Warwick, William Morgan, William Young and James Rheas; for ensigns, Jacob Slaven, James Worley, Samuel Young and James Callison.

Pioneer names included also

(Please Turn to Page 18m)

Warrior's Route

(Continued From Page 4m)

McNill, Moore, Lightner, Harper, Grimes, Waugh, McGarity, Fred, Slaven, Brown, Sharr, Bradshaw and others.

Other old family names included Price, Arbogast, Gibson, Bennett, McLaughlin, Wallace, Bull, Buzzard, Hannon, Hamilton, Kerr, McCubbin, Reeder, Duncan, Mountain, Dink, Ketter, Lours and many others.

article clipped by
Capt
Koster
Slaven

J. N. A.

Washington's Camp

By William H. Maginnis

(Staff Writer for The Gazette)

George Washington, the 222nd anniversary of whose birth the nation celebrates tomorrow, was one of the first persons to write a descriptive narrative of the Lower Kanawha River. He recorded events of his visit to the lower Kanawha Valley in 1770 in his diary.

The upper Kanawha Valley was described in a similar diary kept by John Peter Salley (or Salling) in 1742 just a few days after he discovered coal near Racine, Boone County, and he said he gave Coal River its name.

Washington, a very methodical person, wrote in his diary on Oct. 31, 1770: "I sent the canoe along down to the junction of the two rivers about five miles, that is the Kenhawa with the Ohio — and set out upon a hunting party to view the land. We steered nearly east for about eight or nine miles then bore southwardly till we came to our camp at the confluence of the two rivers."

On Nov. 1, he wrote: "A little before 8 o'clock we set off with our canoe up the river to discover what kind of lands lay upon the Kenhawa. . . . We judge we went up the river about 10 miles today."

Next day, Nov. 2 he recorded: "We proceeded up the river about four miles more, and then encamped and went hunting, killed five buffaloes and wounded some others. . . . Some of our people went up the river four or five miles higher."

He wrote on Saturday, Nov. 3: "We set off down the river on our return homewards and encamped at the mouth, at the beginning of the bottom above the junction of the rivers and at the mouth of a branch of the East Side I marked two maples and an elm and hoopwood tree as a corner of the soldiers land (if we get it) intending to take all the bottom from hence to the rapids in the Great Bend (Letart Falls) into one survey."

The mouth of the Kanawha River was the farthest south and West in the Ohio Valley reached by Washington, whose diary should set at rest any legends that he surveyed lands in this section. His diary showed that he marked corners to certain lands, but the actual surveys were made for him by William Crawford and a crew of men beginning in 1771.

The 10,000 acre tract on the north side of the Kanawha River in Mason County was the only tract on the river owned by Washington, which he actually saw. He later owned tracts in Putnam County between Buffalo and the Potomac River, the site of St. Albans and Drake and Hunting Spring where Washington, making a total of 23 miles through along the

Washington that trip also saw other land he later owned including Washington Bottom of 2,314 acres in Wood County, the

site of Ravenswood, Jackson County, 2,448 acres; the Millwood tract, 4,395 acres, about seven miles below Ravenswood; the Round Bottom tract, 587 acres, in Marshall County.

Washington also owned tracts along the Little Kanawha River and Potomac River in what are now Jefferson and Berkeley counties, as well as lands in other states.

On the trip down the Ohio River Washington told of meet-

ing Kiashuta, an old acquaintance, one of the Six Nation chiefs and head of them along that river. Kiashuta and his tribesmen made a ceremonious appearance at Washington's camp to request peace, friendship and trade.

Washington wrote: "The Indians, who are very dexterous (even their women) in the management of canoes, have their hunting camps and cabins along the river, for the convenience of transporting their skins by water to market. In the Fall, so soon as the hunting season comes in, they set out with their families for this purpose; and in hunting will move their camps from place to place, till by Spring they get two or three hundred or more miles from their towns; then catch beaver in their way up, which frequently brings them into the month of May, when the women are employed in planting. The men are at market and in idleness till the Autumn again, when they pursue the same course. During the Summer months they live a poor and perishing life."

#

Diary of First President Reveals That 'He Slept Here' (In Vicinity of Pt. Pleasant) On Exploring Expedition

The Gazette's Magazine Section, Feb. 21, 1954

article clipped by
Lant Rader Slaven

Photo omitted

PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON when he was 40 years old was painted by C. W. Peale, two years after Washington's trip to the Kanawha Valley. Washington noted in his diary on May 22, 1772 "Set for Mr. Peale to finish my face." The portrait is owned by Washington and Lee University.